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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 25, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the people's House reassembles, our Nation faces a complicated and, to many, a confusing economic issue.

Bless each Member of this assembly with the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding needed to meet the interests of the citizens of the United States.

Renew in us all the adoption by Your Spirit, that we may affirm our freedoms, not only with conviction in the way we understand others, but in ourselves by actions proven beyond words.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on

agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE PRESIDENT'S SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in four short days, thousands of jobs will fall victim to the President's sequester. It is no secret that the very proposal for sequestration originated in the White House. And what has the President done to help Congress solve the mess he created by reaching a solution? He has traveled across the country and made speeches from the White House campaigning for tax increases.

In Friday's Washington Post, Bob Woodward described the President's approach to raise taxes as a substitute

for the sequester as "he is moving the goalposts." The best way that our country can avert this devastating policy, which will destroy jobs and place our national security at risk, is for the President to put the interests of the American people before party politics.

House Republicans have voted twice to replace the sequester with common-sense reforms. Time is running out. With just days to go, the President should begin working with House Republicans by engaging in the legislative process.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

(Mr. WAXMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the non-partisan Government Accountability Office took historic action this month. For the first time ever, GAO put climate change on its high-risk list because of the serious threat it poses to the taxpayer.

It makes sense. Just look at Superstorm Sandy and the droughts and heat waves we have recently endured. Extreme weather events have cost our Nation more than \$180 billion over the last two years.

That's why today the cochairs of the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change are writing to 69 inspectors general across the Federal Government. We are asking for their help in assessing whether government entities are doing all they can to confront this threat.

As a member of the Safe Climate Caucus, I believe it's time we take this issue seriously. If we don't, we will leave our children an unstable climate and disaster costs that they will not be able to afford.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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